

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 147
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize the *National Day of Hope®* in
Tennessee, the first Wednesday of April, 2003.

WHEREAS, founded in 1959 by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, Childhelp USA®
is one of the oldest and largest national nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention and
treatment of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, in the initial organization of the *National Day of Hope®*, Childhelp USA's®
stated goal was to create a greater awareness of child abuse and to inspire and mobilize people
across the country to work for solutions to this tragic problem; and

WHEREAS, each day, more than three children die in the United States as a result of
parental maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, seventy-eight percent of abused children under the age of five lose their
lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect, as do thirty-eight percent of children under one
year of age; and

WHEREAS, there is an average of one report of child abuse in America every ten seconds and in Tennessee, it is estimated that a child is abused every fifty minutes; the actual incidences of abuse and neglect are estimated to be three times greater than the number reported to authorities; and

WHEREAS, with statistics as staggering as these, it is of the utmost importance that we fight to end this epidemic of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, because of the correlation between child abuse and delinquency, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency, human and economic costs of this horrendous problem are high; this senseless loss of human life and potential can be halted by a widespread, concerted effort by the citizens of Tennessee to put an end to this cycle of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Childhelp USA® believes it is important to create hope for all children who have suffered abuse and neglect; as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Childhelp USA® has designated the first Wednesday in the month of April the *National Day of Hope®*; and

WHEREAS, on the *National Day of Hope®*, Childhelp USA® asks people across the country to observe three minutes of silence or prayer and to light three-wick candles, which represent the three children who die each day from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the *National Day of Hope®* will focus national attention on the tragedy of child abuse and mobilize businesses, the faith community, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and all citizens across America to commit and recommit their energies and resources to assisting abused and neglected children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby designate April 2, 2003, as the *National Day of Hope®* in

Tennessee in order to break this vicious cycle of neglect and abuse and to focus public awareness on this social ill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers throughout Tennessee recommit themselves to mobilizing their resources in order to assist abused and neglected children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Tennesseans are urged to support any and all actions on behalf of abused and neglected children, committing their prayers, words, resources, and abilities to that end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.